

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5776

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, ASEAN, TH,MARR

SUBJECT: GOP PRESS BRIEFING ON MARCOS-KUKRIT TALKS ON US BASES
AND ASEAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MANILA 9245

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN PRESS BRIEFING JULY 23, INFORMATION
SECRETARY TATAD SAID THAT IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF US
MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES, PRESIDENT
MARCOS AND PM KUKRIT AGREED THAT BASE PRESENCE IS
"TEMPORARY IN NATURE". GOP INTENDS "TO ACQUIRE SOVER-
EIGNTY OVER BASES" BUT ALSO BELIEVES US HAS CERTAIN
RESPONSIBILITIES TO MAINTAIN BALANCE OF POWER IN REGION.
THESE TWO CONSIDERATIONS PROVIDE PARAMETERS FOR FORTH-
COMING BASE NEGOTIATIONS. TATAD SAID THE TWO LEADERS
AGREED ASEAN SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND THIS QUESTION
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING. TATAD'S BRIEFING
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COVERED POINTS WHICH APPEARED IN COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED

JULY 24 (SEPTTEL). TATAD'S LANGUAGE ON NEGOTIATIONS
BASICALLY SAME AS PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS IN JULY 7
DEFENSE COLLEGE SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 23 INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD GAVE PRESS
BRIEFING ON KUKRIT-MARCOS CONVERSATIONS. FOLLOWING
BASED ON SEMI-OFFICIAL PNA ACCOUNT. TATAD SAID MARCOS
AND KUKRIT AGREED PRESENCE OF US MILITARY BASES "ARE
TEMPORARY IN NATURE WHICH PNA SAYS IS REITERATION
OF ASEAN PRINCIPLE. PNA NOTES THAIS HAVE GIVEN USG
UNTIL MARCH 1976 TO PHASE-OUT BASES IN THAILAND, WHILE
GOP HAS INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO REACQUIRE SOVEREIGNTY
SOVER AREAS NOW OCCUPIED BY THE US BASES. RECENT DEVELOP-
MENTS, PARTICULARLY IN INDOCHINA, HAVE BROUGHT GOP TO
TERMS "WITH THE FACT THAT EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY AND
COLONIALISM IS OVER." GOP, HOWEVER, ALSO BELIEVES US
HAS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES TO "MAINTAIN BALANCE OF
POWER HERE" AND THAT THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN USG AND GOP WILL BE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THESE
TWO CONSIDERATIONS.

2. TATAD TOLD PRESS MARCOS AND KUKRIT BOTH BELIEVE
ASEAN SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT THIS MATTER
SHOULD BE PUT TO OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS WITH SOME URGENCY
AT A SUMMIT MEETING. TATAD SAID GOP ALSO HELD VIEW
THAT ASEAN SHOULD NOT DENY ITSELF INTERNAL CAPABILITY
TO SETTLE PEACEABLY DISPUTES THAT ARISE WITHIN THE
TREATY AREA. GOP ALSO BELIVES STRONGER ASEAN WOULD
BETTER SERVE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE INTERESTS OF
MEMBER STATES WITH RESPECT TO PROTECTION OF THEIR
SOVEREIGN TERRITORIAL AND OTHER NATIONAL INTERESTS.

3. TATAD QUOTED MARCOS AS SAYING THEY AND KUKRIT AGREED
THAT HARMONIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL POLICIES
WITHIN THE REGION, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
CUSTOMS UNION AND A FOREIGN TRADE OR EXCHANGE UNION,
MERITS THE CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS.

4. MORNING PAPERS JULY 24 ALL NOTE THAT "TEMPORARY" IN
CASE OF US BASES IN THAILAND MEANS THEY WILL REMAIN
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UNTIL MARCH 1976. TEMPORARY WITH REFERENCE TO THE
BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES MEANS A LOOSE TIME FRAME
"WHICH COULD BE IN A FEW YEARS TIME" (EXPRESS AND
BULLETIN.). TIMES JOURNAL REPORTS THAT "THE US BASES
IN THE PHILIPPINES WILL ABIDE BY A LOOSE TIME FRAME
WHICH COULD MEAN THE NEXT FEW YEARS BUT ADDS THAT "IT
WAS GATHERED THAT THE PHILIPPINE POSITION IN RESPECT
TO THE TEMPORARY STATUS OF BASES IS THAT THERE IS NO

INTENTION TO DISRUPT THE US POSITION AS A PACIFIC
POWER".

5. COMMENT: TATAD'S EMPHASIS ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS
BEING HELD WITHIN CONTEXT OF A) GOP AWARENESS THAT
EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY AND COLONIALISM IS OVER,
B) GOP BELIEF USG HAS CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES
TO MAINTAIN BALANCE OF POWER IN THE REGION IS ESSENTIALLY
SAME FORMULATION MARCOS USED IN ADDRESS TO FINANCIAL
TIMES GROUP ON JULY 7 (MANILA 9241 AND 9245).
SULLIVAN

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